

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Tuesday, September 23, 1913

Time and Clover.

"I have a field from which a crop of wheat was taken this summer. The land was seeded to clover and grass with the wheat. The stand was all right until the hot and dry weather in July and August, and now there is very little clover left. I have sown clover in the bare spots, and will harrow it in the time of the bare spots or time all over and brush it in with a smoothing harrow, applying a good amount of acid phosphate and sowing the clover seed at once. I would not use the ammoniated fertilizer at all. But sow the clover seed as early as practicable, for if you let it stand for several weeks you will be rather late to get a stand of clover. By early sowing you may perhaps repair the bare spots."

Curing Sorghum

Caroline County: "I have about five acres in sorghum just beginning to ripen. I am thinking of curing it for milch cows and beef cattle. What is the time to cut it? Can it be stacked outside without injury? Mrs. wishes to know if you have a good recipe for curing string beans and corn? Cut the sorghum when fairly well matured, and set it in shocks, tying the tops of the shocks well; then keep them erect, and it will keep all right till used up, and will make good roughage if cut up for feeding. It will not dry out like corn stover, but will keep juicy, and it is best to let it stand in shocks rather than in large stacks. I am not an expert in curing. You can get a bulletin of Home Canning on application to the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, D. C. We put string beans in strong brine in the fall, in stone jars, and then can them out and soak overnight in fresh water and they cook like fresh beans."

Potato Blight.

"We planted Green Mountain potatoes the first of July, and used 1,000 pounds an acre of a special potato fertilizer from Richmond. They are good, sandy land. They are very slender in the stalk and yellow, and seem to have some disease, as some of the leaves are dying." You should have sprayed the potatoes with Bordeaux mixture to keep the foliage good and prevent the blight that seems to be attacking them. Some good may still be done perhaps by spraying. You can get the prepared dry Bordeaux in Richmond from the fertilizer agent who sold you the fertilizer, and can add water and spray at once. But with these blights it is always best to prevent them than to try to cure them. I do not know what the special fertilizer you used contains, and there are a good many special ones that are altogether specially adapted to the crop.

Onions and Strawberries.

Campbell County: "Please inform me through your department in The Times-Dispatch the best fertilizer for onions, and the best for strawberries. What is the correct name of what are commonly called salad onions: the kind that increases in clusters at the roots and in midsummer produces bunches of sets on top? These seem to be the earliest variety in the market, but do not become really onions. Roots and tops used for frying before other varieties come in."

One of the most unsatisfactory questions that come to me is just what you ask. To advise intelligently in regard to the fertilization of any crop the present condition of the soil should be taken into account. To advise a fertilizer for any particular crop on land that I know nothing about, is too much like quackery, and I can only say that for onions on a good, sandy soil, I have found the following a good formula, and it is equally good for strawberries, applied after the "fruitless" season, to get strong growth of growth for another season. Acid phosphate, 500 pounds; nitrate of soda, 100 pounds; cottonseed meal, 500 pounds; and sulphate of potash, 400 pounds, to make a ton. Use this at rate of 1,000 pounds an acre. I know of no onion such as you describe. I know the yellow potato onion that increases at the root, but it makes no sets on top. I know another onion that does make the top sets, and is known as top onions. The earliest green onion I know is the Norfolk Queen. I plant sets of these in September and ten have them ready for use or marketing in late February. I think you have gotten two sorts of onions mixed in your head. I plant now the sets of the yellow potato onion and use the side offsets in spring after the Queen onions are over.

You can easily get sets of the top onions from seedsmen, but they are not very early, so far as I have noted. They are not a fine onion by any means, and I do not grow them. The Queen is white, mild and early. The potato onion, the only one that grows in clusters at the roots, makes in addition to small offsets ripe onions of large size and good quality. The top sets make a rank and strong onion. It is a fine onion, and the plant of the onion family called shallot. This can stand in same place from year to year and the offsets pulled.

Soil for Inoculating Soil.

"I have some land on which crimson clover has been grown with success. I wish to use some of the soil from this for inoculating other land. How much shall I use an acre and how? It matters little how much soil you use. A barrel an acre is about the average amount used. It should be mixed in at once to prevent the sun from killing the bacteria."

The Queen Onion.

"Is the Norfolk Queen onion a better onion than the White Pearl, and which is the larger and the best keeper through the winter? I have used the White Pearl, but have never seen the Norfolk Queen." The onion sold in Norfolk under the name of Queen is not the Queen of the North. It is a very similar to the Pearl, just as large, and earlier in use as a green onion. It stands the winter here in Southeastern Maryland as well as any. I grow the fall planted sets only for green onions, and plant yellow potato onions to follow them and to make ripe onions of large size.

Malnutrition of Cotton.

"I am troubled with what is called red rust and freckling in cotton. The plants grow to good size, and then early in August the leaves turn yellow and drop off and the bolls get hard and are not large, though they open. I have used 200 pounds of kainit and 200 pounds of 14 per cent acid phosphate. Could you suggest a remedy?"

Yes, I would suggest that you feed the crop better. You have applied twenty-four pounds of potash and twenty-eight pounds of phosphoric acid an acre. This makes the cotton grow for a time, and then it falls purely from lack of food. Your application would have done better had the cotton followed on a clover sod, but on poor land you simply galvanized it into temporary life with a little potash and phosphate that were soon used up, and then the extra growth could not be sustained. Red rust in cotton is usually red starvation.

A mixture of 1,200 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate, 600 pounds of cottonseed meal and 200 pounds of muriate of potash will make a ton of good cotton fertilizer, and this used at rate of 500 pounds an acre, will prevent red rust even in the poorest land. What you evidently need is a good rotation of crops and the building up of your land through the use of the legume crops. Then, with a liberal use of acid phosphate and some potash you can make good cotton without buying the nitrogen. Good farming is the cure for many troubles in crops.

Fertilizing Oats.

"I have just rented an old run-down farm, and want to sow oats and rye this month, and think of using 200 pounds of Thomas phosphate and 100 pounds of kainit an acre. Later I shall sow wheat after some rather poor corn and use the same fertilizer. Will this do as a start? I assume that there have been no legume crops on the land, and your land is a usual red Piedmont soil. Under the conditions it would be better to use some carrier for nitrogen, and you can leave out the potash on your land. Three hundred pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of cottonseed meal will be a better application to land of that condition either for the oats or the wheat. I hardly think that the potash will be needed on your land, and if it was, you could get it more cheaply in muriate of potash than in kainit. Two hundred pounds of kainit will give you but twenty-four pounds of potash, while fifty pounds of muriate would give you as much, and you would have to freight but one-fourth the amount to get the same amount of potash. Better get land of your own and farm it in an improving rotation."

Planting Pecan Trees.

"What time of the year should Pecan trees be transplanted, and should they be transplanted? Plant them at time of transplanting. Plant them in the fall as soon as the leaves have fallen. Ram every inch of soil tight as the tree is planted, and you will not get any water. Give a topdressing of any good complete fertilizer in the spring before they start to grow."

Eliminating Nut Grass.

"Is there any way to exterminate nut grass? Nut grass, so called, is not a grass at all, but a sedge. As I have often said, the only way to exterminate it, and any persistent weed, is simply to not allow it to grow and make green leaves. Any plant must be allowed to make green leaves above ground in order to die. This is just what I did. Four years ago, when I bought the place where I now live, the garden was completely infested with nut grass. I simply determined that it should not grow, and I kept it shaved off daily. By this means it gradually got thinner, and now it is hard to find a plant of nut grass in my garden. People neglect it in gardens that are simply used to get a few early vegetables and then let run to weeds, and the nut grass makes thousands of seed in the late summer and more plants come from seed than from the roots. But if the seed is kept absolutely clean all summer the nut grass will die out. And the same is true of any perennial weed growth. It is the general opinion here that a crop of sweet potatoes will kill out nut grass. I have not tried this, but I do know that nut grass will die out if you do not allow it to grow."

Varieties of Tomatoes.

"I am now satisfied with the varieties of tomatoes I have been growing and would like to have your advice as to which of the different varieties, and to know which you consider best." The tomato crop has always been a favorite with me, and for many years I have tested all the new varieties as they came out from the time when Colonel Waring sent out the Trophy, for which I paid him \$5 for twenty seed. The Trophy was really the first great advance in tomatoes in solidity and quality. We had had a variety called the Tilden before that, but the Tilden, while smooth, was very hollow inside, and the Trophy was the effort to get the crooked Mexican Chihuahua into the smooth skin, and all breeding since then has been directed to getting solid and meaty fruits in a smooth skin. The earliest tomato is the Earliana. But the being ridged and being in shape. Some growers up in the Adirondack Mountains, where earliness is essential to getting any tomatoes, went to work to select the Earliana into a better form, and now the so-called Langdon Earliana is the smooth, ribbed, shaped tomato of good size and early, though not as solid and meaty as later ones.

The next early is the Bonny Best, which is about ten days later than Earliana and a far better tomato. Some people want a scarlet fruit, some prefer the pink ones. I grow some of both. I plant a few Earliana for the earliest and then plant Beauty, a large pink tomato. Beauty, a large smooth and solid red tomato. These make larger and better fruits than any of the early sorts. The early tomatoes have scanty and thin foliage, and are apt to get sun-scalded. The later ones have heavier foliage. I have grown this year, too, the Globe, a perfectly round, pink tomato, and a good bearer. But for a stand by I know none better than the old Beauty and the Stone. Those who grow tomatoes for the canning plant the Stone exclusively. I find that here it is best to start the extra early tomatoes in the greenhouse and transplant to frames for hardening off so as to get the earliest fruit. I have found that along in the later summer these early tomatoes run down in size, and are not worth much, therefore, sow some seed of the Beauty and Stone in the open ground in April to grow plants for a succession. These will come in at their best in August and September, and the early ones can be cleared out and the land worked for fall crops. Then in garden work I find that I always get better tomatoes by training the plants to single stems on stakes about six feet tall. They can then be planted closer and the ground can be kept clean of crab grass, which is almost impossible where the plants are allowed to tumble over the ground, of course, it takes a good deal of work to keep the suckers pinched out, and the plants tied up, but the result pays well for the work.

PLANS TO EXTEND FREE PEOPLE SERVICE

University, Through New Bureau, Hopes to Enter More Fully Into Life of State.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Chapel Hill, N. C., September 22.—The University of North Carolina plans this year to combine the interests of the college proper and the immediate needs of the State by offering its utilities toward practical helpfulness. This service, which it proposes to offer to the people takes on a variety of forms, such as county economic and social surveys, municipal and legislative reference aids, correspondence courses, teachers' bureau, guidance in debate and declamation, information by lectures. Its general classification is the Bureau of Extension of the University of North Carolina.

The platform, the lecture-room, special bulletins, handbooks and material loaned by the university library, are the mediums by which the university hopes to carry its service directly into the homes and communities of the State. One of the chief means of promoting the aims of this extension bureau will be from the platform with twenty-five members of the faculty already having proffered their spare time to go at the command of any community desiring the services of a lecturer. Topics of general and specific interest will be considered—namely, institutes, farmers' meetings, special meetings, commencement and dedicatory exercises. Another medium of disseminating information immediately desired by the State will be through the university library, which offers its service to municipal or State legislators seeking to draft bills on special subjects.

This bureau of extension has perfected its organization and planned its campaign. The committee piloting its endeavors is composed of the following members of the faculty: Professors E. K. Graham, N. W. Walker, M. H. Stacy, A. H. Patterson, C. L. Roper, H. W. Chase, M. C. S. Noble and Collier Cobb. The end of the second week of the fall term of the 1913-14 session at the university brings the number of students matriculating to the figure 529, two more students than the sum total enrollment for the entire college year 1912-13. That the number will easily climb to 500 before the session ends is the belief of the authorities of the institution.

In an effort to be more helpful to the new men in the university a new policy has been adopted, whereby each freshman has an adviser from the faculty to need to water. Give a topdressing of any good complete fertilizer in the spring before they start to grow. With the alienation of the electrical engineering department from the physics department proper, with Professor P. H. Daggett at its head, has come an enlargement of this department in the way of floor space, and the purchase of much additional apparatus for the pursuit of developing electrical engineers.

Among the alumni of Carolina visiting on the "Hill" the past week were W. H. S. Eury, of Jackson; Albert H. Cox, of Raleigh; George Thomas, of Raleigh; F. J. Cox, of Wadesboro, and Isaac Emerson, of Baltimore, Md.

POLITICAL PUTS AT BOILING POINT

Lively Contest for Seats in Legislature Being Waged in Norfolk County.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Norfolk, Va., September 22.—The political pot in the city and county is simmering, but nearer the boiling point in the county because of the primary, which occurs on October 2, and in which not only the committee is at stake, but a lively contest for the Legislature, which is to elect a circuit judge for another term.

The contest between the present Democratic organization and the straightouts for the county committee is muddled to the extent that the primary tickets will contain a greater number of names than there will be members of the committee. This grew out of the refusal of the straightouts to accept the appointment on the last gubernatorial vote, they insisting upon the figures in the presidential election. The party law gives the committee the right to use either of these returns it selects.

The liveliest contest is likely to come between the rival aspirants for the House of Delegates. The straightouts have nominated Dr. L. C. Percebe and C. J. Duke, while their opponents will be Messrs. Baker and Old. Mr. Old stands for re-election, he having served in the last legislative body. It is generally reported that Messrs. Old and Baker will vote for the re-election of Judge Joseph T. Lawless, while Messrs. Duke and Percebe would support C. W. Coleman for the judgeship, the Legislature which meets next January having to elect the judge for a new term.

There has as yet been no public speaking in the county campaign, but both sides are reported to be working right along. In the city the Citizens' party has nominated both a full ticket for city officers, and Messrs. Woodward and Coaling for the House of Delegates, while the organization presents the incumbents for re-election to city offices, but has not yet named its legislative ticket. Considerable interest is felt in the selection of the legislative candidates of the organization, and, while it is generally believed that they will be representative men, they have not yet announced their candidacy.

Judge W. E. Mason, of Norfolk, comes up for re-election by the next Legislature, and whoever is chosen from Norfolk doubtless will support him, while Delegate Malbon, of Princess Anne will support, it is said, Judge J. D. White for re-election.

FREDERICKSBURG AWAITS COMING OF SECRETARY BRYAN

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Fredericksburg, Va., September 22.—Great interest is felt in the visit of William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State, to the Fredericksburg Fair, which opens here next Tuesday, September 23, and continues for three days. Mr. Bryan will deliver an address before the people on the Fair Grounds, and it is expected that the largest crowd that has ever attended the fair will be present. Mr. Bryan will gather to hear him. They are coming from all of the surrounding country, and a large proportion of the population of Fredericksburg will turn out to hear him. This will be Mr. Bryan's first speech in Fredericksburg since the notable campaign of 1906.

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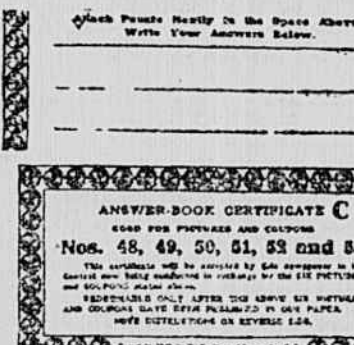
INSTRUCTIONS and EXPLANATIONS

Read the Contest rules in our paper. You will then know the number of puzzles that will be published during the contest, also how many answers you may submit to each one.

As each puzzle appears in the paper, cut it out. Try it neatly around the heavy dotted lines, attach same carefully on this sheet.

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